

Options for Levels of Response to Gang Activity and Neighborhood Violence

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Level 6 | Level 7 |
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| Approach to Problem | Let the problem fester. | Disconnected programs assigned to existing department not designed for violence prevention. Funding not to scale. | All of Level 2, plus a Gang Taskforce to increase intra and inter departmental coordination. Funding and programs are still not to scale. | End ad hoc approach and create a department designed to reduce gang and other violence through citywide neighborhood-based revitalization strategies. Implement strategy in hot zones. | All of Level 4, plus develop a regional strategy and entity that move beyond violence stabilization to violence reduction. Create neighborhood action plans. | City entity works with regional entity and neighborhoods to achieve coordinated, funded programs and services that produce results that can be seen and felt in formerly violent neighborhoods. | Achieve citywide public safety. |
| Goals of Approach | No goals. | Reach a small percentage of youth with scattered prevention and intervention services without proof of results. | Attempting to coordinate existing programs to patch gaps in communication and collaboration by forming a Gang Taskforce. Higher quality of programs achieved through better coordination, but no increase in the number of youth reached. | Violence stabilization in hot zones. Restructure current resources into one City entity to coordinate services. A majority of children in hot zones will receive prevention services. Qualitative and quantitative evaluations of programs for constant improvement. | Improved school performance and reduced drop out rates. Move beyond violence stabilization to violence reduction by creating jobs for young people and expanding intervention and prevention services. Close entrance ramps and create exit ramps for youth into and out of gangs. Creation of new entity to manage funding and regional coordination. | Significant reductions in violence in high crime zones, gang presence recedes. Increased programming reaches almost 100% of young people. Move to a standard that provides basic safety in most neighborhoods. | Lower hot zone crime rates to the City average rate. All children would have access to constructive and healthy alternatives and would not be at risk of witnessing violence. Organized communities that are full partners in revitalization. Stable funding stream. |
| Consequences of Approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to scale • No strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to scale • Lack of substantive expertise in leadership • Uncentralized, uncoordinated, and ad hoc efforts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to scale • Only qualitative results • Insufficiently robust to develop community specific solutions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to scale • Implemented only in high crime areas with partial reach to at risk youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fully to scale • Implemented in high and emerging crime areas • Insufficient funding for need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all neighborhoods are 100% safe from violent gang crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely to scale |
| Scale | Not to scale. | Fewer than 5% of gang members reached for intervention. Less than 7% of the almost 300,000 children living in high gang crime areas receive prevention services. | Same scale reached as Level 2, but quality of programs is higher and more focused because of coordination. | Reach at least 40% of high risk youth for intervention services and 25% of at risk youth for prevention services. | Reach at least 75% of high risk youth for intervention services and 50% of at risk youth for prevention services. | Reach at least 90% of high risk youth for intervention services and 100% of at risk youth for prevention services. | 100% of youth in need of services would have access to prevention and intervention programs. |
| Structure | None. | Traditional department. | Gang Taskforce—slightly improved coordination | Entrepreneurial department with oversight. | Planning of regional and neighborhood strategy. New entity for regional collaboration and funding management. | Regional and neighborhood strategy in place. | Regional and neighborhood strategy. |
| Funding | Only suppression. | Insufficient and unbalanced. | Insufficient to need. Taskforce has no authority over funds. | Restructure existing resources. Insufficient funding for need. | Plan for dedicated stream of funding. | Dedicated funding stream. | Dedicated, stable funding stream. |
| Evaluation | None. | No evaluation, data collection, or database planning. | Incorporated with limited data | Improved data collection and evaluation. | Permanent research entity within regional body. | Permanent research entity within regional body. | Permanent research entity within regional body. |
| Community | No engagement. | Hot zones are riddled with violent crime. | No change in community. | Stabilization of crime in hot zones | Reduction in gang violence and membership in hot zones. | Significant reduction in hot zone crime rates. Most neighborhoods have basic safety. | Hot zones' crime levels at a Westside rate. Community in partnership with City and regional leaders. |
| Youth | No programs. | Some unevaluated programs available to limited numbers of youth. | Slightly higher quality programs for limited numbers of youth. | Most young people in high crime areas have access to prevention programs. | High crime areas have access to coordinated intervention and prevention programs. Youth's school performance improves and drop out rates lessen. | All children in hot zones have access to intervention and prevention programs. | All children have access to constructive and healthy alternatives. |